

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 IO-03 ACDA-10 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01 PRS-01 PM-03 DODE-00

SCCT-01 SP-02 SAM-01 (ISO) W
----- 032769

R 291614Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3935

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSYLONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1602

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12378

LIMDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

3. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, IS

SUBJ: SOVIET VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS

1. SUMMARY. DURING AN AUGUST 27 CALL BY GERMAN AMBASSADOR SAHM, SYTENKO, CHIEF OF THE MFA'S NEAR EAST COUNTRIES DIVISION, TOLD HIM A NEW SINAI AGREEMENT "DOES NOT HELP AT ALL," AND SERVES ONLY "TO DIVIDE THE ARABS." SYTENKO RESTATED FAMILIAR MOSCOW POLICIES ON VARIOUS ISSUES, BUT ADDED THAT CAREFUL PREPARATIONS FOR GENEVA COULD INCLUDE "CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS
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ON A BILATERAL BASIS" WHICH, HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE TO BE

WITHIN THE GENEVA FRAMEWORK. END SUMMARY.

2. SINAI AGREEMENT. SYTENKO OPENED WITH SOME GENERAL REMARKS CRITICAL OF THE AMERICAN EFFORTS TO MEDIATE A SECOND SINAI AGREEMENT. HE CLAIMED THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT IGNORED THE INTERESTS OF SYRIA AND THE PALESTINIANS, AND, THEREFORE, "DOES NOT HELP AT ALL." SYTENKO INSISTED THE "KEY PROBLEMS" OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE SOLVED FIRST, AND A SINAI AGREEMENT SIMPLY SERVES TO GIVE ISRAELIS BREATHING SPACE AND "TO DIVIDE THE ARABS EVEN FURTHER." HE BLAMED THE GERMANS AND OTHER EUROPEANS FOR PROVIDING (UNSPECIFIED) HELP TO THE SECRETARY. ASKED WHAT THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD ANOTHER SINAI AGREEMENT WOULD BE, HE REPORTEDLY SAID SOVIETS WOULD PROBABLY TAKE NO POSITION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

3. GENEVA CONFERENCE. ASKED TO ELABORATE ON WHAT MOSCOW MEANS BY "CAREFUL PREPARATIONS," SYTENKO SAID THE PARTIES INVOLVED COULD REACH "CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS ON A BILATERAL BASIS," BUT THESE ARRANGEMENTS "WOULD HAVE TO BE WITHIN THE GENEVA FRAMEWORK." HE CITED ONGOING SOVIET CONVERSATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL ARAB COUNTRIES AS EXAMPLE OF CAREFUL PREPARATIONS. SYTENKO SOMEWHAT HEATEDLY INSISTED THAT, CONTRARY TO REPORTS HE HAD SEEN IN THE WESTERN PRESS, THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD NOT BE BENEFICIAL ONLY TO THE SOVIET UNION BUT, LIKE CSCE, ADVANTAGES WOULD ACCRUE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. ASKED IF GENEVA WOULD BE WORTH IT IF THE PROSPECT WERE FOR DISPARATE OPENING POSITIONS AND POSSIBLY BREAKDOWN, SYTENKO SAID THAT IF ALL PARTIES WOULD COME TO A RECONVENED CONFERENCE WITH SERIOUS INTENTIONS AND A POSITIVE SPIRIT, THE CONFERENCE WOULD SUCCEED.

4. JERUSALEM. WHEN ASKED ABOUT MOSCOW'S THINKING ON JERUSALEM, SYTENKO SAID THAT THE REQUIREMENT FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY INCLUDES WITHDRAWAL FROM JERUSALEM.

5. ISRAEL-UN. SYTENKO WAS EVASIVE WHEN DISCUSSING THE ONGOING CAMPAIGN TO SUSPEND OR EXPEL ISRAEL FROM THE UN; HOWEVER, HE DID PORTRAY THE EFFORT AS ONE WHICH WOULD BE USED ONLY AS A "LAST REPORT", AND MADE FAMILIAR POINT THAT UNDER CHARTER, ONLY SECURITY COUNCIL CAN EXPEL A MEMBER.

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6. EGYPT-USSR. ON THE ISSUE OF RESCHEDULING THE EGYPTIAN DEBT, SYTENKO SAID THE TWO SIDES ARE "NEGOTIATING," BUT HE OFFERED NO INFORMATION ON WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN DECIDED. HE HAD NOTHING NEW ON A POSSIBLE GROMYKO TRIP TO EGYPT, BUT HE SPECULATED THAT FAHMY MIGHT MEET WITH GROMYKO IN NEW YORK AT THE UNGA.

7. INDEPENDENT PALESTINE. IN SYTENKO'S VIEW, THE ESTABLISH-

MENT OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE OF PALESTINE, COMPOSED OF GAZA AND THE WEST BANK, WOULD BE "A POSITIVE STEP TOWARD PEACE," ALTHOUGH HE WAS CERTAIN THAT SUCH A STATE WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE OR DEAL WITH ISRAEL "AT FIRST." THE IDEA OF SOME SORT OF CONFEDERATION WHICH WOULD INCLUDE JORDAN AND PALESTINE IS "UNREALISTIC" ACCORDING TO SYTENKO.

8. A GERMAN EMBOFF WHO ACCOMPANIED AMBASSADOR SAHM SAID THAT SYTENKO SEEMED UNUSUALLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES OF REACHING AN OVERALL ME SETTLEMENT, AND HE APPEARED QUITE SOUR, PRESUMABLY REFLECTING FRUSTRATION OVER MOSCOW'S RECENT INABILITY TO INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION TO ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW12378
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750301-0388
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975085/aaaaaeabi.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, GE, IS, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006